Message Text

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PAGE 01 MELBOU 01392 290610Z

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ACTION EB-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2456

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MELBOURNE 1392

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EWWT, AS

SUBJECT: NAUTICAL SERVICE HOLDINGS PTY LTD

REF: STATE 256917

1. CONGEN HAS MADE THOROUGH INVESTIGATION INTO SUBJECT FIRM. MARINE GROUP OF COMPANIES TITLE NOTED IN REFTEL IS NOT USED BY THE COMPANY WHICH ACUTALLY CONSISTS OF FIVE SEPARATE COMPANIES UNDER SUBJECT NAMES:

A) NAUTICAL SERVICE (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD.: SUPPLIES ALL EQUIPMENT FOR PORT NAVIGATION AND MOORING SYSTESM AND PROVIDES PORT MANAGEMENT SERVICES.

B) MARINE CONSULTANTS PTY LTD.: UNDERTAKES HYDROGRAPHY, METEOROLOGY, DREDGING FEASIBILITY STUDIES, SURVEYS, TOWAGE AND MOVEMENT OF FLOATING PLANT FROM SITE ALSO THE DESIGN AND LAYOUT OF MOORING, FENDER, BERTHING AND NAVIGATION FACILITIES AND SYSTEMS.

C) MARINE (CIVIL) CONSTRUCTORS PTY LTD.: HANDLES THE INSTALLATION OF HEAVY PORT AND NAVIGATION EQUIPMENT AND UNDERTAKES PORT MAINTENANCE AND OVERHAUL.

D) NAVIGATION AND MARINE SERVICES OF AUSTRALIA PTY LTD.: SUPPLIES NAVIGATION CHARTS, COVERING A WORLD CATALOGUE, MARINE PUBLICATIONS AND SPECIALISED MARINE EQUIPMENT. CONTRACTS ARE SOLICITED FOR THE DESIGN, SUPPLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND INSTALLATION OF ENTIRE SHIPS EQUIPMENT.

E) MARINE TERMINALS PTY LTD.: OPERATES AS MARIEN ENGINEERS.

- 2. CAPTAIN CHARLES T. WHITTAKER, WITH HIS WIFE, WINIFRED, (A FULLY ACTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMPANY) AND VARIOUS OTHER MEMBERS OF THE WHITTAKER FAMILY HOLD ALL THE SHARES IN COMPANY. FIRM FORMED AS HOLDING COMPANY FOR FIRMS ENGAGED IN ACTIVITIES NOTED ABOVE. OWNS ITS PREMISES AT SOUTH MELBOURNE ADDRESS. WHITTAKER, BORN IN 1929, IS A MEMBER OF THE COMPANY OF MASTER MARIES OF AUSTRALIA, AN ASSOCIATE OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF NAVAL ARCHITECTS, A FELLOW OF THE ROYAL METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY, A MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE OF NAVIGATION AND HOLDS A DEGREE IN NAVAL ARCHITECTURE, WAS PREVIOUSLY EMPLOYED AS A CAPTAIN ON AN IRON ORE CARRIER OF THE BLUE STAR LINE, AND MIGRATED TO AUSTRALIA FROM ENGLAND IN 1958.
- 3. LOCAL FINANCIAL SOURCES REPORT WHITTAKER AND HIS FIRM TO BE CAPABLE AND RELIABLE, BUT DUE TO NATURE OF OPERATIONS NOT NORMALLY A SEEKER OF COMMERCIAL CREDIT. TRADE AND GOVERNMENT SOURCES, PARTICULARLY IN WHITTAKER'S SPECIALIZED FIELDS OF ACTIVITY, DESCRIBE HIM AS AN ENTREPRENEUR, WITH SPECIAL EXPERTISE IN MARINE ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE; ONE WHOSE PROJECTS ARE REASONABLE AND WHO SHOWS INITIATIVE AND GOOD NAVAL THINKING. CONSENSUS OF THOSE DEALING WITH HIM IS SATISFACTION, FAITH IN HIS INTEGRITY AND RELIABILITY, BUT SUGGEST THAT HIS COSTING PROCEDURES BEAR WATCHING BECAUSE THEY ARE USUALLY UNDERSTATED.
- 4. BASED ON PERTINENTINFORMATION IT WOULD APPEAR SUBJECT AND FIRM CAN BE RECOMMENDED.
 BRAND

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